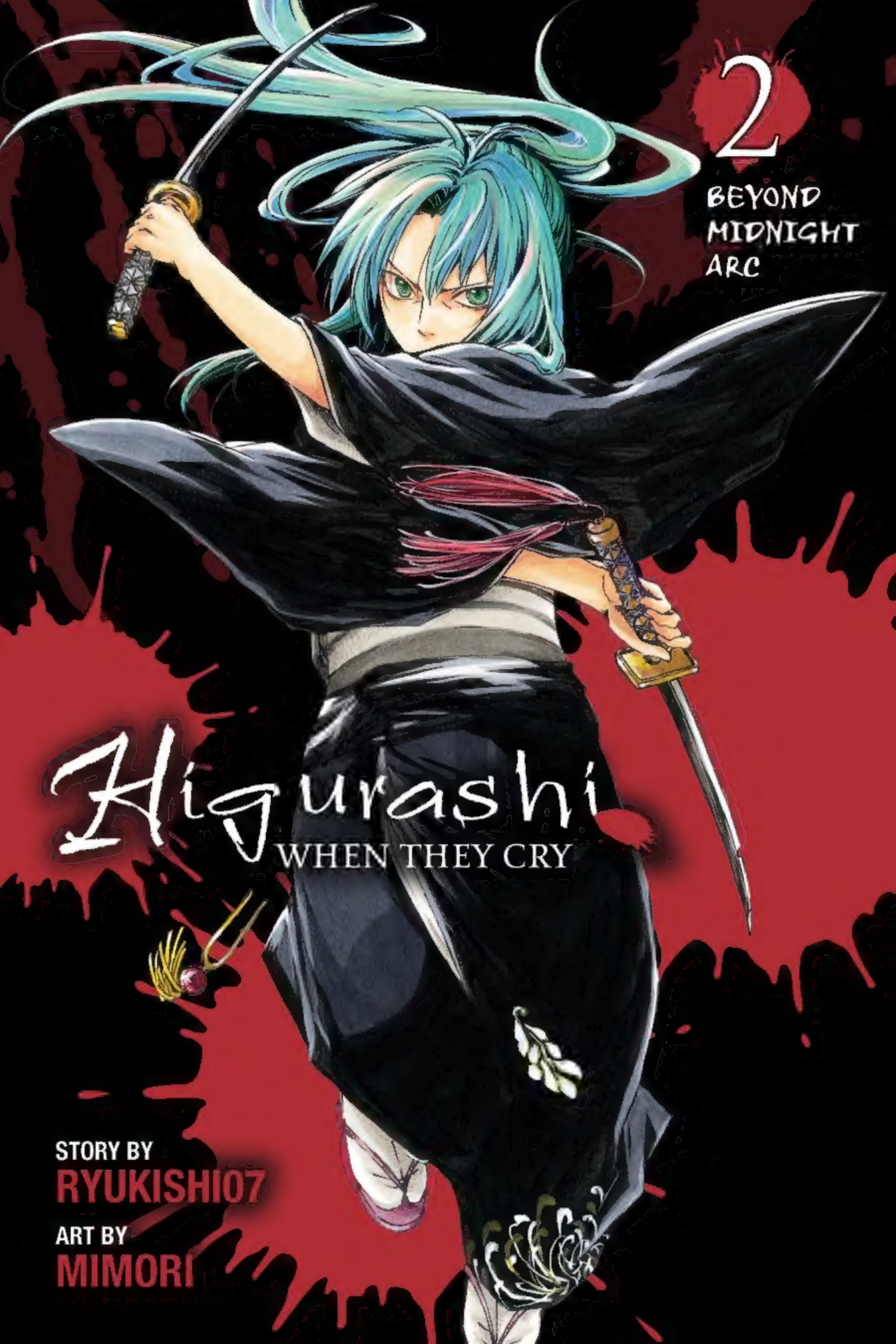
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WHEN THEY CRY
STORY BY
RYUKISHI07
ART BY
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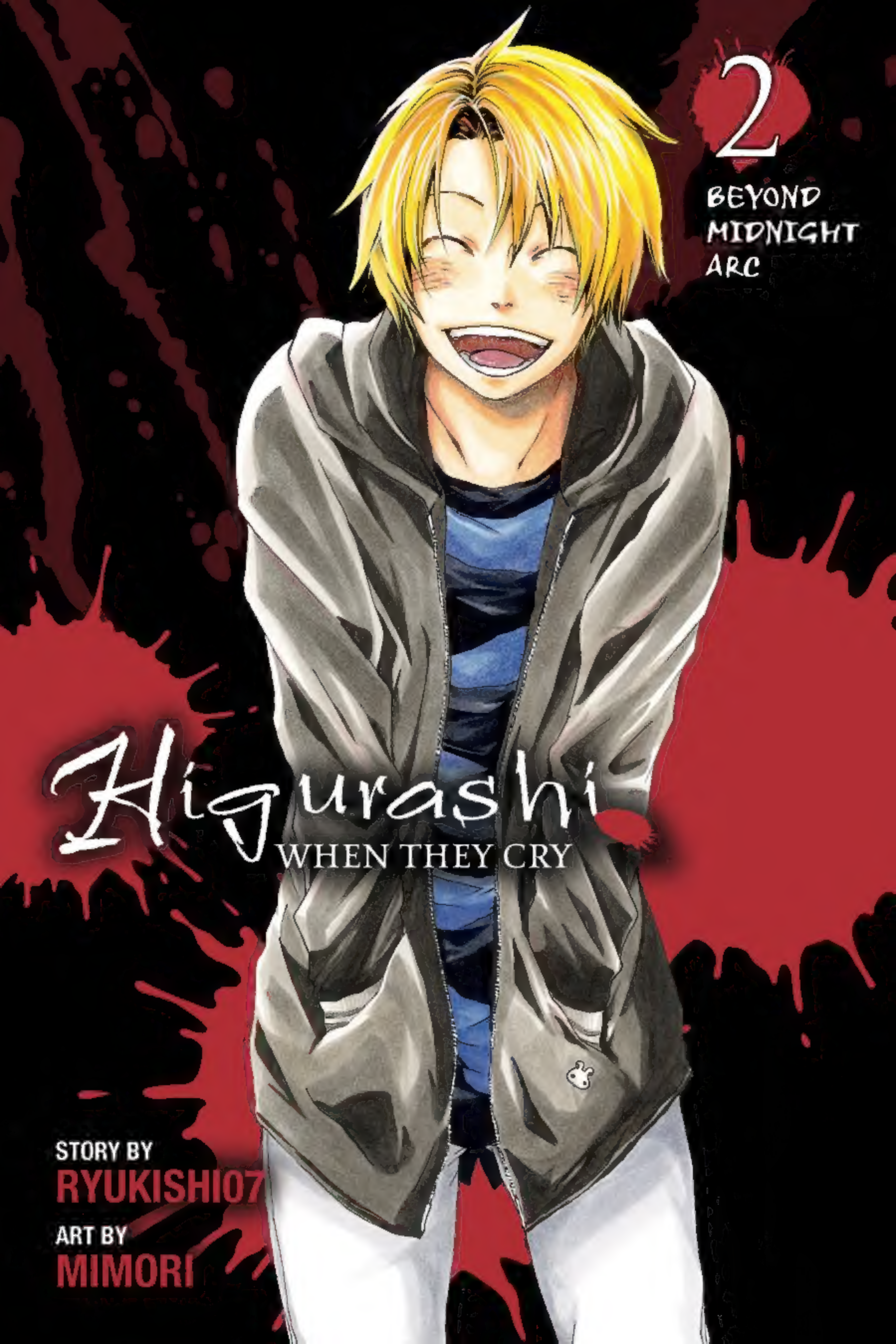
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BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC
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Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

CHAPTER 7

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

SIGH... "WHO ARE YOU?" HE ASKS. I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

I'M MION SONOZAKI. A RESIDENT OF HINA-MIZAWA VILLAGE.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!! MION SONOZAKI DIED TWENTY YEARS AGO...

LOOK, IF I WERE THE KILLER, I WOULDN'T BE GOING THROUGH ALL THIS HASSLE.

HYU CHAOOSHD

...WHO ARE YOU...!!?

JUST EXACTLY ...

I WOULD HAVE CUT YOU ALL DOWN TOGETHER.

IN A SECOND.

ARAKAWA-SAN, CALM DOWN!!

HAAAA!

I-I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M A MASTER OF ALL KINDS OF MARTIAL ARTS!

YOUR LITTLE KATANA DOESN'T SCARE ME A BIT!!

BURURU (SHIVER)

WHA... WH- WH...

J-JUST GO AHEAD AND TRY!

EEEEEK!

SOLAR FLARE

IF THAT'S WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST, THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR ME.

はらり

PARA (UNWIND)

ONLY WEAK PEOPLE GO AROUND HIDING AND KILLING PEOPLE.

SUTON (SIT)

すとん

KURU (TURN)

くるっ

SUTA (STALK)

すたすた

SUTA

NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU...!?

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...?

AND IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

I DIDN'T TRUST HER AT FIRST EITHER. ...BUT...

ARAKAWA-SAN IS RIGHT. THERE IS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT MION-SAN.

YOU'VE BEEN SUSPICIOUS FROM THE START!!

ARAKAWA-SAN, PLEASE, STOP...

!

...I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T KNOWN HER FOR A FULL DAY...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE AS BOLD AS MION-SAN WOULD SNEAK AROUND KILLING PEOPLE.

YOU SAID YOU CAME HERE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE, BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE!!

YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE BEING SUSPICIOUS, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU!?

FOR ALL WE KNOW, YOU FORGED THAT ARTICLE TO FRAME MION-SAN!!

BA (WHIP)

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY I'M THE KILLER !?

NO! I'M SAYING THAT ONCE WE START SUSPECTING EACH OTHER, THERE WILL BE NO END TO IT!!

ANYWAY, LET'S CALM DOWN. IF WE FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES, WE'LL BE FALLING RIGHT INTO THE KILLER'S HANDS.

... RSE ...

PETAN ♪ (COLLAPSE)

.....!

THERE ARE FOUR OF US HERE. IF WE ALL STAY TOGETHER, THEN MAYBE THE KILLER WON'T TRY ANYTHING.

EH?

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S... CURSE...

HERE IT IS!

IT'S RUMORED THAT THEY ONCE SHELTERED ALIENS IN THE SAIGUDEN ...

MAYBE THOSE ALIENS HAVE AWAK-ENED!?

PERA

PERA (FLIP)

N-NO, NO. HOLD ON!

PERA

THEY SAY THAT THE SAI-GUDEN IS A SACRED PLACE ...

...AND WE TRESPASSED INSIDE IT. MAYBE SOMETHING IS TRYING TO DELIVER DIVINE PUNISHMENT ...?

BUTSU

THERE'S ALSO A THEORY THAT THE GAS DISASTER WAS MAN-MADE.

MAYBE SOMEONE KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS VILLAGE, AND HE OR SHE IS STILL TRYING TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE?

BUTSU

BUTSU (MUTTER)

ARAKAWA-SAN? UM... ARE YOU OKAY!?

KYU (TUG)

GASP!

COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE CALLED "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S MESSENGER."

SUKU (STAND)

YO, SONOZAKI-SAN! YOU'RE FROM THIS VILLAGE, RIGHT? IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, THEN TELL US!!

SHURU

SHURU (SHRR)

GASSHI (GRAB)

SUTA (STALK)

...THE MESSEN-GER...

D... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ...

GYAAA

FIRST OF ALL!! OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

...IS NOWHERE NEAR THIS LAME!!

.....

SHIIIN (SILENCE)

...S...

SO... WHO ARE YOU SAYING DID IT ...?

...THEN THEY ALSO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE BATTERY WAS ALMOST DEAD, RIGHT?

WHY WAS YOUR CELL PHONE THE ONLY ONE THAT WAS BROKEN?

IF THE KILLER KNEW THAT YOURS WAS THE ONLY PHONE WITH A SIGNAL...

BIKU (WINCE)

OTOBE.

EH!?

SINCE WE HAVE THE SAME MODEL, WE COULD TRADE BAT-TERIES...

IS... ISN'T THAT BECAUSE OF YOUR PHONE, MION-SAN...?

IF THEY'RE THE SAME MODEL, SHOULD THAT REALLY HAPPEN?

MY PHONE IS OUT OF RANGE, BUT *YOUR* PHONE HAS A SIGNAL.

THE SAME MODEL !?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. NOW IT MAKES SENSE!

...OKAY, THEN HERE'S A QUESTION.

...EVERY-WHERE YOU GO IS OUT OF RANGE.

I...I DON'T KNOW. THEY ARE TWO DIFFERENT PHONES... MAYBE IT HAPPENS?

...!

IN THIS VILLAGE...

THERE AREN'T ANY CELL TOWERS IN AN ABANDONED VILLAGE LIKE THIS ONE.

WHAT'S MORE, IT'S IN A RAVINE.

WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT IS POSSIBLE.

AT ANY RATE, YOUR PHONE IS BROKEN, SO WE CAN'T CHECK.

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

GYU (CLENCH)

B-BUT A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I MANAGED TO GET A SIGNAL, SO...

SO LET ME ASK YOU ANOTHER QUESTION.

.....KH!!!

YOU DROPPED IT JUST NOW WHEN YOU WENT TO GET A BLANKET.

WHOSE CARD IS THIS?

GOLD/SILVER CASH CARD

XXXX XXXX XXXX

THE NAME HERE... IT'S A GIRL'S NAME. AND THE SURNAME ISN'T OTOBE.

DOKUN

BA (TURN)

DOKUN

DOKUN (BADUM)

OTOBE.

DOKUN

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?

SFX: DOKUN (BADUM) DOKUN DOKUN

...I COULDN'T MAKE A SINGLE MOVE.

DOKUN

PIERCED BY MION-SAN'S EYES AS THEY GAZED STRAIGHT AT ME...

DOKUN ゾクッ

AHH.

I CAN'T RUN ANYMORE.

WHEN DID I TURN INTO THIS!?

I...

I...

WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS? WHERE DID I GO WRONG?

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...

I DIDN'T THINK I WAS THE TYPE TO WASTE AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

THAT'S WHY...

YOU UNGRATEFUL SON!!

AKIRA...!

...I APPLIED TO GO TO COLLEGE IN TOKYO AND WENT TO THE CAPITAL AGAINST MY PARENTS' WISHES.

I'M FREE!!

THE CITY LIFE I'VE LONGED FOR.

AND WITHOUT MY ANNOYING PARENTS... I'M FREE.

BUT LIFE ONLY SPARKLED AT THE BEGIN-NING.

I WORKED PART-TIME JOBS TO GET THE MONEY I NEEDED TO SUPPORT MYSELF.

BUT...

MY DAYS WERE FULL OF PART-TIME WORK AND SQUANDER.

AND I DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE BEFORE I'D BEEN THERE SIX MONTHS.

CRAP... IS THIS ALL I HAVE LEFT FOR THE MONTH?

BUT I HAVE A DRINKING PARTY TO GO TO...

ATM

WELCOME!

TISSUES: IF YOU NEED A LOAN!!

THE WAY I WAS LIVING ...

TAKE ONE.

JUST A LITTLE BIT OF FUN, AND MY MONEY EVAPORATED LIKE WATER.

...THERE WERE A LOT OF TEMPTATIONS IN THE CITY.

...IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG...

... BEFORE I STARTED TAKING OUT LOANS.

EVENTUALLY, IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO STAY AFLOAT.

I TOOK ON MORE DEBT TO PAY OFF THE FIRST DEBT.

ドン

ドン

ドン (BLUNT)

BOWL: GINGER PORK

AND SO, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I REALIZED THAT I HAD COME TO THE END OF MY ROPE.

WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, DAMMIT!

GIVE US BACK OUR MONEY, DAMMIT!

ドン

When I loaned you money, I made you get life insurance, remember? I won't trouble your grieving family. You know what I'm getting at?

Don't think you can run forever.

You have twenty messages.

PI BEEP

You have reached voice mail.

PACHIN (SNAP)

I lent you the money because you asked for it, you know.

DON

Oh, Akira? Your place is kind of surrounded by some dangerous-looking guys. I can't get close to it.

DON

DON

DON

You still have both kidneys, right? One'll cover three million, and then you'll come out even on the interest. Just the interest, though.

Akira.

PIKU (TWITCH)

Give me back my money!

Akira-kun, would you stop calling me? I never thought of you as anything more than a friend, you know.

SIGN: OTOBE

We're very worried about you.

I know that you're feeling guilty about running away from home like you did... but call us sometime.

Are you getting enough to eat?

M..OM...

We haven't spoken in a long time. Are you doing okay? ...This is your mother.

Good luck out there, Akira.

PO (DRIP)

Good luck.

PUTSU (CLICK)

...ME...

DON POUND

DON

DON

DON

MOM...

I don't know what your dream is, but...work hard, okay?

MOM...

Your father is still angry, but when he sees how far you've come, I'm sure he'll understand.

HELP ME... MOM...

I'M SO PATHETIC.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING SO SPECIFIC AS A DREAM.

...MMNGH...

NGH...!

I THOUGHT I WAS SPECIAL.

...WASN'T SPECIAL. I WASN'T ANYTHING.

I...

BUT I NEVER GOT THAT OPPORTUNITY.

...AND THAT WOULD BE THE TIME WHEN I COULD GIVE IT MY ALL.

UUNNGH ...

I JUST THOUGHT THAT SOMEDAY I'D NATURALLY FIND SOMETHING...

BOTTLE: TEA

I'M A DISGRACE...I'M THE ABSOLUTE WORST, MOST WORTHLESS HUMAN BEING.

自殺志願者

I MADE A BIG SHOW AND RAN OFF TO THE CAPITAL.

AND IN THE END, I BANKRUPTED MYSELF PLAYING AROUND.

AD: SUICIDE APPLICANTS

IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO DIE.

I NEVER GOT ANOTHER CALL FROM HOME AFTER THAT DAY.

BU (BWV)

BU

BU

BU

BU

...ANOTHER...

...DEBT COLLECTOR...

AND OF COURSE, I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO CALL MYSELF...

PHONE: RESTRICTED NUMBER

PASHA

I FOUND A GOOD PLACE.

PASHA (FLASH)

PASHA

THEY SAY IT'S A FAMOUS PLACE FOR SUICIDE...

MAGAZINE: MYSTERY / OCCULT FEATURE / SPECIAL FEATURE: GHOST VILLAGES

BIK- (WINCE)

HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE.

BU

BU

BU

IF ONLY... MOM HAD SAID "COME HOME" INSTEAD OF "GOOD LUCK"...

GOOO (WHOOOOSH)

IN-CLUDING MYSELF, THERE WERE FOUR MEM-BERS...

...OF OUR CARBON MON-OXIDE SUICIDE PARTY.

IS YOUR CELL PHONE THAT FASCINATING?

!

BOX: MATCHES

WE PARKED THE CAR AT A RANDOM SPOT...

...AND STARTED GETTING EVERY-THING READY.

I JUST COASTED ALONG, GETTING CLOSER TO THE TIME OF MY DEATH.

I'M NOT SEEING ANY GHOSTS.

PITA (STICK)

GASHAN (CLANK)

GACHA

AM I... GOING TO DIE ...?

IT DIDN'T FEEL REAL TO ME.

I KIND OF HAD MY HOPES UP, SINCE YOU CALLED IT A VILLAGE OF THE DEAD.

I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD SEE MY DEAD FAMILY MEMBERS ...

WITH THAT ONE SENTENCE FROM MACHI-CHAN, EVERY-ONE STARTED TELLING ONE ANOTHER ABOUT THEIR PASTS.

I WAS SURPRISED.

JARA (RATTLE)

BUT I'LL GET TO SEE THEM SOON EITHER WAY.

MACHI-CHAN ...

THEY ALL HAD SUCH TOUCHING, TRAGIC STORIES THAT LED UP TO THEIR SUICIDES.

COM-PARED TO THEM ...

...I WAS...

...WAS CHIAKI-SAN'S PASSBOOK. THE ACCOUNT HELD A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT SHE SAID HER HUSBAND HAD LEFT HER.

HE EARNED IT WITH THE SUCCESS OF HIS BUSINESS. I WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANYMORE...

...SO I THOUGHT I WOULD BRING IT TO HIM.

AND WHAT SUR-PRISED ME...

... EVEN MORE ...

I THOUGHT ...

IF I COULD ONLY HAVE THAT MONEY...

... THEN I...

... THEN MY LIFE WOULD ...

...I COULD START OVER.

CARD: NISHI D BANK / —SAMA

...DIDN'T SWALLOW ANY.

I...

WE PASSED AROUND SLEEPING PILLS.

S-SO THE CAR I SAW WITH THE SUICIDE VICTIMS... THAT WAS...?

SO YOUR STORY ABOUT THE CAR DISAPPEARING AND YOU BEING SEPARATED FROM YOUR FRIENDS...

...WAS A LIE?

NNGH

I... I'M SORRY ...

I DIDN'T WANT THE POLICE TO FIND OUT ABOUT IT UNTIL I WITHDREW THE MONEY ON THE CARD...

I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU'D FIND OUT I WAS LYING... SO I...

...BROKE MY PHONE MYSELF ...

MY PHONE WAS OUT OF RANGE THE WHOLE TIME.

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE ONE BAR ON MY PHONE...

AND I LIED... ABOUT REPORTING IT TO THE POLICE.

I'M SORRY ...!

I'M SORRY!

I... I'M SORRY!

AND THEN...

...YOU TOOK YOUR COMRADE'S ATM CARD... AND RAN.

SO YOU DUG YOURSELF DEEP INTO DEBT, AND WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT, YOU JUST DECIDED TO KILL YOURSELF.

YOU ARE TRULY A SPINELESS COWARD.

YOU'RE AS LOW AS THEY GET.

UUNNNGH...

MMNGH

NGH...!

N... NO!! I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MURDER !!!

PLEASE BELIEVE ME...

H-HEY!! IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROKE YOUR PHONE...DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE ALSO THE KILLER!?

!

BUN (SHAKE)

WE CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

STAY AWAY FROM ME!

BUN

BABA (JUMP)

MI—

MION-SAN!! PLEASE BELIEVE ME!

I KNOW THAT.

I NEVER KILLED ANYBODY...

A WEAKLING LIKE YOU...

...WOULD NEVER HAVE THE GUTS.

SAAAAAAAAA (SHHHHHHH)

CHAPTER 8

SAAAAAAA
(SHHHHH)

Full Sigh

...HH...
HM...?

SW
(STAND)
ス…

WHY WOULD THE KILLER...

...BRING THE BODY HERE, I WONDER?

...HOW...AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT...?

THIS IS JUST SPECULA-TION...

...BUT I WONDER IF HE'S HERE NOT BECAUSE THE KILLER CARRIED HIM HERE, BUT BECAUSE THE KILLER ***COULDN'T*** CARRY HIM.

COME TO THINK OF IT... TOWADA, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER SAW TAKUMI AWAKE.

.....?

ALL WE SAW...

...WAS HIM SLEEPING, COVERED IN A BLANKET.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS...

...MAYBE TAKUMI WAS DEAD THE WHOLE TIME.

WHA ...!?

TH... THEN...

SHE'S... THE KILLER!?

H-HE'S RIGHT! SHE HAD NO REASON TO LIE ABOUT BEING ATTACKED AND THEN COME BACK HERE!!

WAIT! IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WOULDN'T SHE HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS SHE COULD!?

HMM... GOOD POINT.

IF WHAT TOWADA SAYS IS TRUE, AND TAKUMI WAS ATTACKED OUTSIDE...

...THEN TAKUMI WOULD BE WET FROM THE RAIN, HE WOULD BE COVERED IN MUD, AND HE WOULD BE WEARING HIS SHOES.

EARLIER, WE WERE ALL IN SUCH A PANIC, WE DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THOSE DETAILS.

TOWADA COVERED HIM RIGHT BACK UP WITH A BLANKET, AFTER ALL.

TOWADA.

I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO SHOW US THE DEAD BODY OF THE MAN YOU LOVE.

BUT CAN WE CHECK?

JUST FOR A SECOND.

BA
(FWOOSH)

JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

AHH ...

WE HAVE QUITE THE DETECTIVE HERE.

...AND I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN MY PEACEFUL LIFE BACK.

...WASN'T TAKUMI YOUR BOYFRIEND?

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID, SONOZAKI-SAN.

I KILLED TAKUMI-KUN...

...BEFORE ANY OF YOU GOT HERE.

I...

...LOVED HIM.

HE WAS.

WE EVEN LIVED TOGETHER.

SARA (STROKE)

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

HE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE BOY...

...YES, HE WAS LIKE A CHILD.

I WANTED TO BE CLOSE TO HIM, TO WATCH OVER HIM.

HIS FACE ALWAYS LIT UP WHEN HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS DREAMS.

IT FELT SO NICE.

...AND WARM...

BEING WITH TAKUMI-KUN... ...WAS FUN...

...VERY HAPPY.

I WAS SO...

...MAYBE YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND, OTOBE-KUN.

EH?

I FOUND A STABLE JOB WHILE HE KEPT FOLLOWING HIS DREAM. HE NEVER TOOK A REAL JOB.

BUT AFTER WE GRADUATED COLLEGE, OUR HAPPINESS SOON CRUMBLED ...

I REALIZED WE COULDN'T GO ON LIKE THAT. SO...I TOLD HIM.

HEY, TAKUMI-KUN.

WE HAD BEEN DIVIDING THE LIVING EXPENSES BETWEEN US, BUT THEN I STARTED PAYING ALMOST ALL OF THEM.

KAAA (BLUUUSH)

THAT YOU CAN NEVER KEEP A JOB FOR VERY LONG WHEN YOU'RE ALWAYS EXPECTING SOMETHING BETTER TO COME ALONG.

!

IT'S ONLY NATURAL... THAT WE WOULD MISS EACH OTHER ALONG THE WAY.

I WAS FOLLOW-ING A STEADY PATH. AND HE WAS FOLLOW-ING AN UNSTEADY ONE.

TAKUMI-KUN HAD HAD A LITTLE TO DRINK.

...SHUT UP...I KNOW THAT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME...

IRA (IRK)

I KNOW YOU HAVE A DREAM, TAKUMI-KUN...

...BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN KEEP GOING THE WAY WE ARE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY FRIENDS SAY ABOUT YOU, TAKUMI-KUN...?

MAYBE I JUST HAD THE WORST POS-SIBLE TIMING.

...TAKUMI-KUN?

BA (GRAB)

YOU SEE!? I HATE HEARING PEOPLE TALK THAT WAY ABOUT YOU!

I HATE IT...

THEY CALL YOU A LEECH.

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL YOU!!

BAN
(BAM)

DOSA
(THUD)

A LEECH,
HUH...?

NGH...

NO...
IT'S NOT...
ME.

IS THAT...
WHAT YOU
THINK OF
ME...?

ZA
(STAND)

BUT REALLY YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING DOWN ON ME!!?

GUI (GRAB)

YOU SAID YOU'D WATCH OVER ME... OVER MY DREAM!

STOP

TA-KUM-KU.

GA

GA (WHACK)

DAM-MIT ...

DAMMIT!

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD EVER BEATEN ME.

I WAS SCARED. I WAS IN PAIN.

BUT ...

YOU'D NEVER UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL!

BULL!

BASHI (BASH)

KYA...

I'M SORRY, YAE. I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY... HOW COULD I HAVE...

I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY.

WHEN HE CALMED DOWN, TAKUMI-KUN APOLOGIZED OVER AND OVER.

...HE WAS MORE HORRIFIED THAN I WAS THAT HE HAD BEATEN ME...

YAE...

YAE?

BUT NOW THAT HE HAD CROSSED THAT LINE, HE COULDN'T GO BACK.

TAKUMI-KUN...

...STARTED RESORTING TO VIOLENCE WHENEVER HE DIDN'T LIKE SOMETHING.

YAE...

サラ : SARA (STROKE)

THAT WAS THE TAKUMI-KUN I KNEW.

AFTER HE'D HIT ME UNTIL HE WAS SATISFIED, TAKUMI-KUN WOULD ALWAYS APOLOGIZE, CRYING.

WHEN HE DID...I FORGAVE HIM.

I'VE EVEN...HAD TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.

...!!

MEMORIES OF THE TAKUMI-KUN I LOVED...

I MEAN... THEY'RE STILL INSIDE ME.

MEMORIES OF WHEN WE WERE HAPPY...

MEMORIES OF THE GOOD TIMES...

ERASE
...

...TA-
KUMI-
KUN.

SO
PLEASE.

...I'LL
BE FREE
FROM
HIM.

SOMEONE...
PLEASE
ERASE THESE
MEMORIES...
MAKE THEM
DISAPPEAR...

WHEN
YOU
DO...

BUT...I
REACHED
MY
LIMIT
...

AH...

ERASE
...

...
TAKUMI-
KUN.

THE REST WAS SIMPLE. WHEN HE WAS DRUNK AND UNCONSCIOUS, I WOULD STRANGLE HIM. THE END.

I LEARNED ABOUT THIS VILLAGE WHEN I HAPPENED TO READ ABOUT IT IN A MAGAZINE.

THE PERFECT LOCATION.

TAKUMI-KUN READILY ACCEPTED MY INVITATION; HE HAD NO IDEA THAT HE WOULD BE KILLED.

BUT IN THIS DESERTED GHOST VILLAGE, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT PEOPLE WOULD SEE THE LIGHT ON AND COME VISIT...

I MIS-CALCULATED...

WH-

WHAT KIND OF A WOMAN ARE YOU!!? ACTING ALL MILD MANNERED!

WHEN YOU'RE ACTUALLY A KILLER!!

WHA ...!?

BUT I DON'T FEEL THE SLIGHTEST BIT LIKE I'VE DONE ANYTHING BAD.

ZUI (APPROACH)

...I KNOW THAT MURDER IS WRONG.

I DIDN'T WANT TO.

SUI (STAND)

AND I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER WANT TO DO IT AGAIN.

I JUST DID EVERY-THING IN MY POWER...

...TO TAKE BACK MY HAPPY, PEACEFUL LIFE.

HA!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT!! WE CAN'T TRUST ANYTHING A KILLER SAYS!

I'M NOT EVEN SURE I BELIEVE THAT HE WAS ACTUALLY BEATING YOU!

SFX: SAAAAAA (DRAAAAIN)

NO MATTER WHAT I DID, I JUST COULDN'T GET AWAY. AND AFTER ALL THAT AGONY, HERE I AM TODAY.

TELL THE TRUTH! YOU HAD SOME DIRTY MOTIVE, LIKE YOU WANTED THE INSURANCE MONEY OR YOU FOUND ANOTHER MAN, DIDN'T YOU!?

JUST LIKE FUDGING THE DETAILS ABOUT AN OUT-OF-RANGE CELL PHONE.

DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES.

IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK GOOD!

...EH?

...IN THAT CASE...

...ARAKAWA DOES HAVE A POINT.

WE JUST HAVE TO ASK HIM.

TAKU-
MI...

SU
(SSK)

.....

YA...E...

.....!

T... TAKUMI-KUN?

YAE .. I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK I'D DRIVEN YOU THIS FAR.

I KNOW IT'S TOO LATE FORYOU TO TRUST ME NOW.. BUT I...

...I ALWAYS HATED MYSELF FOR GETTING VIOLENT.

I REALLY REGRETTED MAKING YOU SAD

I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BUT I COULDN'T... THEN I'D GET MORE ANNOYED AND.. BUT..

. YOU GAVE ME A CHANCE

I'M GOING TO STOP CHASING AFTER DREAMS.

I'LL WORK TO MAKE OUR LIFE BETTER, EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE

NOT PART-TIME WORK, A REAL JOB, AT A COMPANY.

YOU INVITED ME OUT ON A DRIVE . I WAS SO HAPPY

.. YAE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS MY CHANCE TO CHANGE MYSELF

SO I WANT YOU TO STAY WITH ME FOR EVER.

I REALLY AM SORRY FOR EVERY-THING

I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT.

YOU'RE LYING!!

IN MY BACK POCKET.

...IT'S A LIE... A LIE...

YOU'RE LYING ...

TO-WADA.

YOU'RE LYING!! YOU'RE LYING, YOU'RE LYING!

I DON'T BE-LIEVE YOU...!

KASA (RUSTLE)

TAKUMI HAD THIS IN HIS POCKET.

KUSHA (CRUMPLE)

WHAT IS IT...?

!

AN... EMPLOYMENT NOTICE?

Notice of Employment
Shibakichi Metals, Inc.
Takumi Kurosawa-sama

I WAS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS

YAE, YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

PETAN (COLLAPSED)

SO. .

...FORGET ABOUT ME, AND TAKE IT ALL BACK.

YOUR TRULY PEACEFUL DAYS...THE FUTURE THAT YOU CHOSE .

I LOVED YOUR BEAUTIFUL SMILE.

I LOVED IT .

WHEN YOU ACTED SHY

AND I LIKED TO STROKE YOUR HAIR.

I LOVED YOU... YAE.

TAKUMI-KUN!?

TAKUMI-KUN!! TAKUMI-KUN!!!

SU (SHFF)

BA (LUNGE)

UWAAAHHH!!

HE'S LONG DEAD.

YOU SAID SO YOURSELF. "I KILLED HIM."

TAKUMI-KUN!? YOU'RE ALIVE, AREN'T YOU? YOU WERE JUST TALKING! COME ON!!

HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TALK...SO HOW!?

Y-YEAH! HE WAS DEAD!

SO IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR IF THE DEAD COULDN'T TOO, WOULD IT?

YOU LIVING PEOPLE CAN TALK.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? THIS VILLAGE ALREADY HAS ONE FOOT IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD.

IT WASN'T NECESSARILY ALL MADE UP.

HEH HEH HEH.

SFX: HIKKU (HIC)

KKU (HIC)

I'M SORRY... TAKUMI-KUN, I'M SORRY.

I'M SOR-RY...!

BUT MY LITTLE CUB...

...SO IF SHE WAS THE KILLER, THAT MEANS SHE MADE UP EVERY-THING, INCLUDING THE PART ABOUT BEING ATTACKED?

.. I... I... WHAT HAVE I DONE...? MGH...

NMMGH ...

.....

TOWADA FELT STRONGLY ENOUGH ABOUT HIM...

...THAT SHE WANTED TO KILL HIM. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE REALLY DID...

...HEAR THE VOICE OF THE MAN SHE ONCE LOVED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I TOLD YOU. WE'RE ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

ZOKU Chills
JUST LIKE WE DID NOW.

THIS PLACE...
...IS SUR-ROUND-ED...

BE-SIDES.
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED?

SAAAA SHHHH

ZA CRUNCH

ZARI CRUNCH

IF WE STAY HERE, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT NONE OF US WILL SURVIVE.

NOW, WHAT WILL WE DO...?

SUTA

SUTA (STRIDE)

...PLAYING YOUR LITTLE MURDER GAME.

I WASTED TIME...

PASA (FWOOSH)

SHURU (SHRR)

I HAD HOPED TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THIS HAPPENED.

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT NOW!?

YOU THREE...

...WAIT HERE A SEC.

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

CHAPTER 9

...HIDING ARAKAWA'S MOTORCYCLE AND TOWADA'S CAR AND TRYING TO ATTACK TOWADA...

ZA (RUSTLE)

BREAKING THE PHONE BENEFITED OTOBE.

PASHA (SPLASH)

KILLING TAKUMI BENEFITED TOWADA.

...SO...

ZA

ZARI (CRUNCH)

WAIT HERE...? WHAT IN THE WORLD IS OUT THERE!?

M... MION-SAN!!

...WHO DO YOU THINK THOSE THINGS BENEFIT?

SAAA (SHHH)

GARA (RATTLE)

MY, MY, MY... IT CERTAINLY TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

SO YOU'VE FINALLY RALLIED YOUR TROOPS. THAT'S QUITE A CROWD JUST TO STOP LITTLE OLD ME. HOW CONSCIENTIOUS OF YOU.

...!?

KOSO' (SNEAK)

WH- WHO ARE THOSE GUYS...?

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN...

THAT'S MION SONOZAKI.

CHA (CHACK)

SHE'S A MON-STER !!

GUNS !?

JIR. (TENSE)

...WHAT'S WRONG?

COME GET ME.

BA (LUNGE)

DA (DASH)

ZANA (RUSTLE)

GWAH!

DO (WHAM)

GHIIN (CLANG)

GAH!

ZASHU (SLASH)

ZA (RUSTLE)

GYA ...!

KIIN

KIIN (CLANG)

GOKURI (GULP)

WH...

WHOA ...

I COULD HAVE FORGOTTEN THEY WERE KILLING EACH OTHER.

MION-SAN'S FIGHT-ING...

...WAS SO MAGNIF-ICENT ...

...AND OVER-POWER-ING!!

JAKA
(KA-CLICK)

KHH...
Y-YOU...

MONSTER!!

BA!
(LEAD)

BASHU
(THNK)

DOUN
(BLAM)

UWAH!
BEHIND
YOU!!

CHA
(CHACK)

!

BISH!
(WHIP)

DON
(BANG)

WE'RE GIVING HER A GOOD FIGHT, BUT WE'RE STILL OUTMATCHED!!

KKH... RETREAT!!

GH ...!

GWAAAHH!

...!!

KARA (RATTLE)

カラ…

BASHA (SPLASH)

BASHA

BASHA

...YES.
THAT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE.
...THEM?
MI... MION-SAN...
BOOO (DAAAZE)
THE CARS DISAPPEARING BENEFITED...
WHO THE HELL ARE THOSE GUYS!?
...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE IT UP AND TELL US ALREADY...?

YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS, ARAKAWA, BUT MY GROUP USED TO HAVE A LOT OF POWER OVER THIS WHOLE AREA. WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, WE'RE CROOKS.

THE SONOZAKI FAMILY AND THE SONOZAKI GROUP...

IN OTHER WORDS, A FAMILY HE R-LOOM. IF I CAN FIND IT, THEN THE DIS-PUTE WILL BE SETTLED. THE ITEM THAT WILL PROVE THAT I AM THE PROPER HEAD OF THE FAMILY IS...

THERE IS AN ITEM THAT THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY HAS PASSED DOWN FOR GENERATIONS WHEN THESE THINGS WERE DECIDED.

...A HAND-BELL!!

IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT THERE'S A FACTION THAT WON'T AC-KNOWLEDGE ME AS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

THEY BROKE AWAY FROM THE FAMILY, HEADED BY SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE GROUP FOR A LONG TIME, AND SO WE'RE FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES.

THEY SAY THAT I DIDN'T FOLLOW THE PROPER ANCIENT RITES TO INHERIT THE FAMILY.

I CAME TO THIS VILLAGE TO FIND IT.

NOW THAT THE FORMER HEAD, ORYOU SONOZAKI, HAS PASSED ON, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD ANY IDEA WHERE IT IS.

BUT EVEN SO, I DIDN'T KNOW ITS EXACT LOCATION.

GOSO (R.)MMAGE)

.....!!

WHAT I KNEW WAS THAT ITS WHEREABOUTS ARE RECORDED IN THE SCROLL INSIDE THE SAIGUDEN AT FURUDE SHRINE.

THAT'S WHY...?

THEY DON'T JUST WANT TO STOP ME FROM FINDING THE BELL...

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, DON'T YOU? THOSE MEN WERE FROM THE RENEGADE FACTION.

AND THAT THIS TAMAHAJIKI NO KATANA, ONE OF THE HEIRLOOMS OF THE THREE FAMILIES ...

...IS THE KEY TO GETTING THE HANDBELL.

...THEY WON'T LEAVE ANY WITNESSES IF THEY CAN HELP IT.

...MOST LIKELY, THEY WON'T STOP AT ME.

GAAAN (SHOCK)

THEY HID ARAKAWA'S MOTORCYCLE AND TOWADA'S CAR TO REMOVE ANY MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM ME.

...THEY WANT TO CUT ME DOWN IN THIS ABANDONED GHOST VILLAGE AND SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THEY PROBABLY ATTACKED TOWADA BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS MY ALLY.

THEY WANT TO CONSIGN US ALL...

...TO OBLIV-ION.

SU (SHU)

I'M GOING TO THE ESTATE.

I WON'T FORCE ANYONE, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE SAFER FOR YOU TO STAY WITH ME. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

IN THE SCROLL, IT IS WRITTEN THAT THE BELL IS HIDDEN AT THE SONOZAKI ESTATE.

I'M SORRY!! I WAS LYING! THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE NO MARTIAL ARTS EXPERIENCE WHATSOEVER!! IT'S JUST THAT I'VE READ *DR●GONBALL*, AND I FELT LIKE DOING THE SOLAR FLARE!!

UGYAAAAAH!!!

EEP!

BABA (FALTER)

I WAS JOKING.

MAN, YOU LOOKED INCREDIBLE FIGHTING OUT THERE!!

BA (JUMP)

I-I-I-I'D LOVE TO JOIN YOU!

AH...!

OH...

...DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE A MASTER OF MARTIAL ARTS, ARAKAWA-SAN?

NIKKORI (GRIN)

THEN YOU SHOULD BE FINE ON YOUR OWN.

WELL, THEN, SHALL WE BE OFF? IT LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN HAS STOPPED.

HUH?

TOWADA-SAN?

...

I'M

...

...STAYING HERE.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? YOU HEARD WHAT SHE SAID, DIDN'T YOU?

IT'S DANGEROUS HERE!! IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU COULD DIE...!

I'M STAYING HERE.

...I WANT TO STAY WITH TAKUMI-KUN A LITTLE LONGER.

AND THINK ABOUT THINGS BY MYSELF ...

B-BUT!

GA (GRAB)

OTOBE!

I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THIS, BUT AT LEAST IT WILL WORK AS A BLUFF.

KOTON (CLUNK)

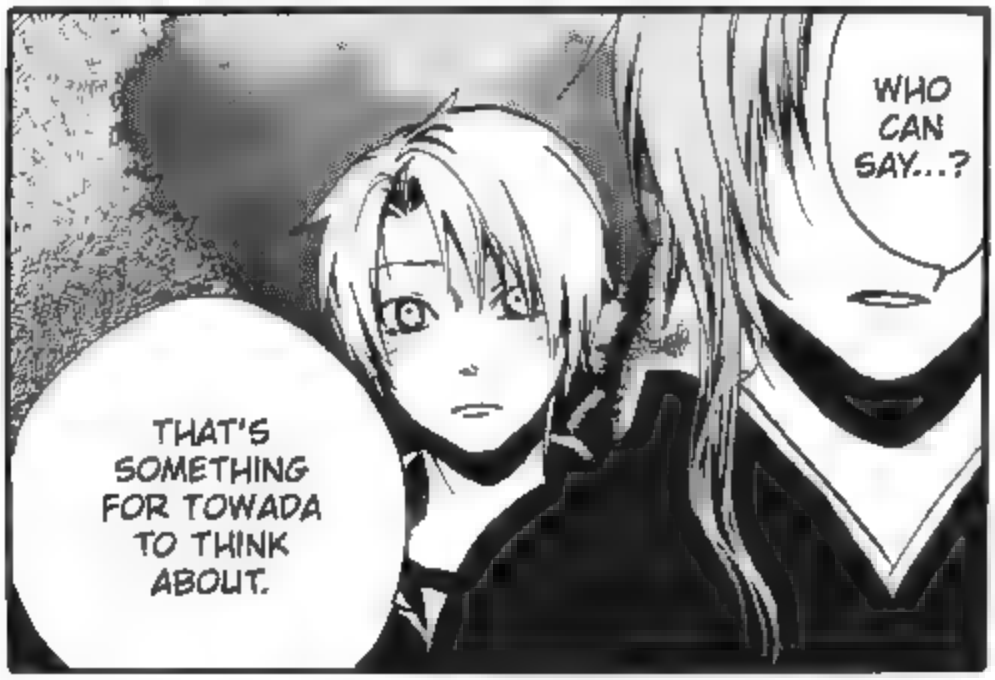
SHE CAN DO WHAT SHE WANTS.

I SAID I WOULDN'T FORCE ANYONE.

MION-SAN...

...VERY... MUCH.

...THANK YOU...


WHO CAN SAY...?
THAT'S SOMETHING FOR TOWADA TO THINK ABOUT.

...DO YOU THINK TOWADA-SAN INTENDS TO DIE...?

SHE LIVED WITH EVERYTHING SHE HAD...

AND LOVED WITH EVERYTHING SHE HAD.

AND AFTER ALL HER THINKING, SHE ENDED UP KILLING THE MAN.

TO-WADA ...

...WILL REGRET IT WITH ALL HER MIGHT, AND THEN THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.

WITH EVERY-THING SHE HAS...

WHAT'S IMPORTANT ISN'T WHAT SHE'LL DO.

OR SHE MIGHT CHOOSE TO SAVE HERSELF.

AS A RESULT, SHE MIGHT CHOOSE TO DIE ALONG WITH HIM.

IT'S HOW EARNESTLY SHE MAKES THE DECISION.

CHAPTER 10

THAT'S THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY FOR YOU!! YOU'RE USED TO BATTLE!!

BUT, MAN, THAT WAS INCREDIBLE!! THE WAY YOU FOUGHT, SONOZAKI-SAN!!

I THINK I WILL BE SAFE

IF I STAY WITH HER

IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

EH!?

O-OH, COME ON. I'M NOT LIKE THAT.

...AND THIS IS AFTER THROWING ALL THAT SUSPICION ON ME. YOU ARE SELF-CENTERED, AREN'T YOU?

.....

EH HEH HEH HEH HEH.

I WON'T FORCE ANYONE, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE SAFER FOR YOU TO STAY WITH ME. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

HAA (SIGH)

PA (BLUSH)

!

AH!

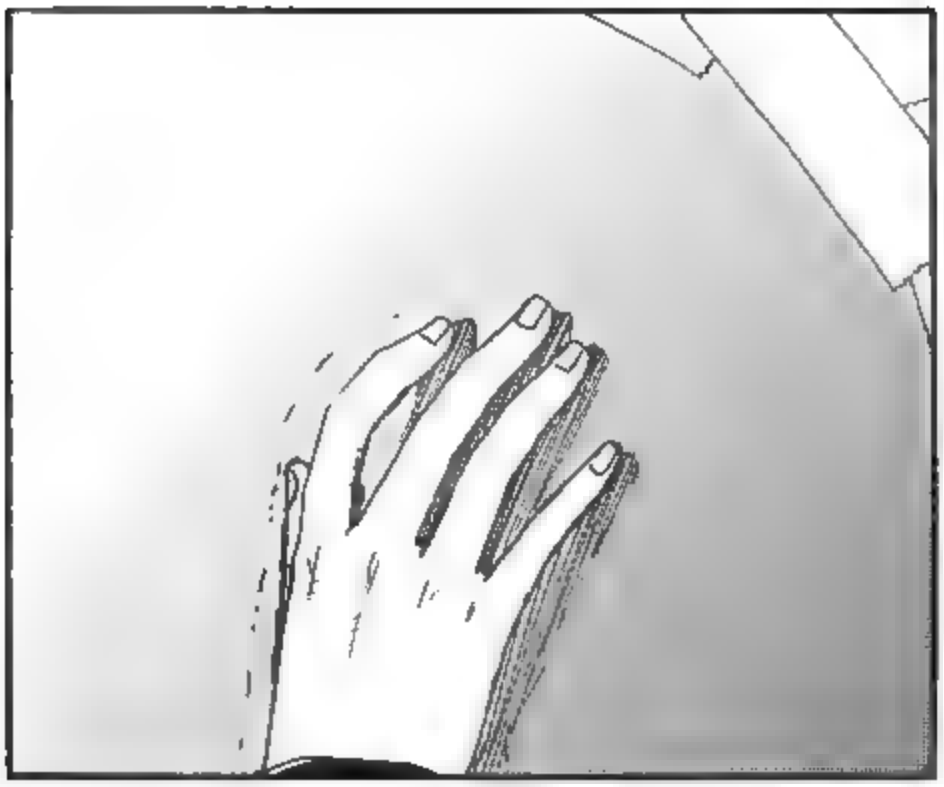
THAT CAR!!

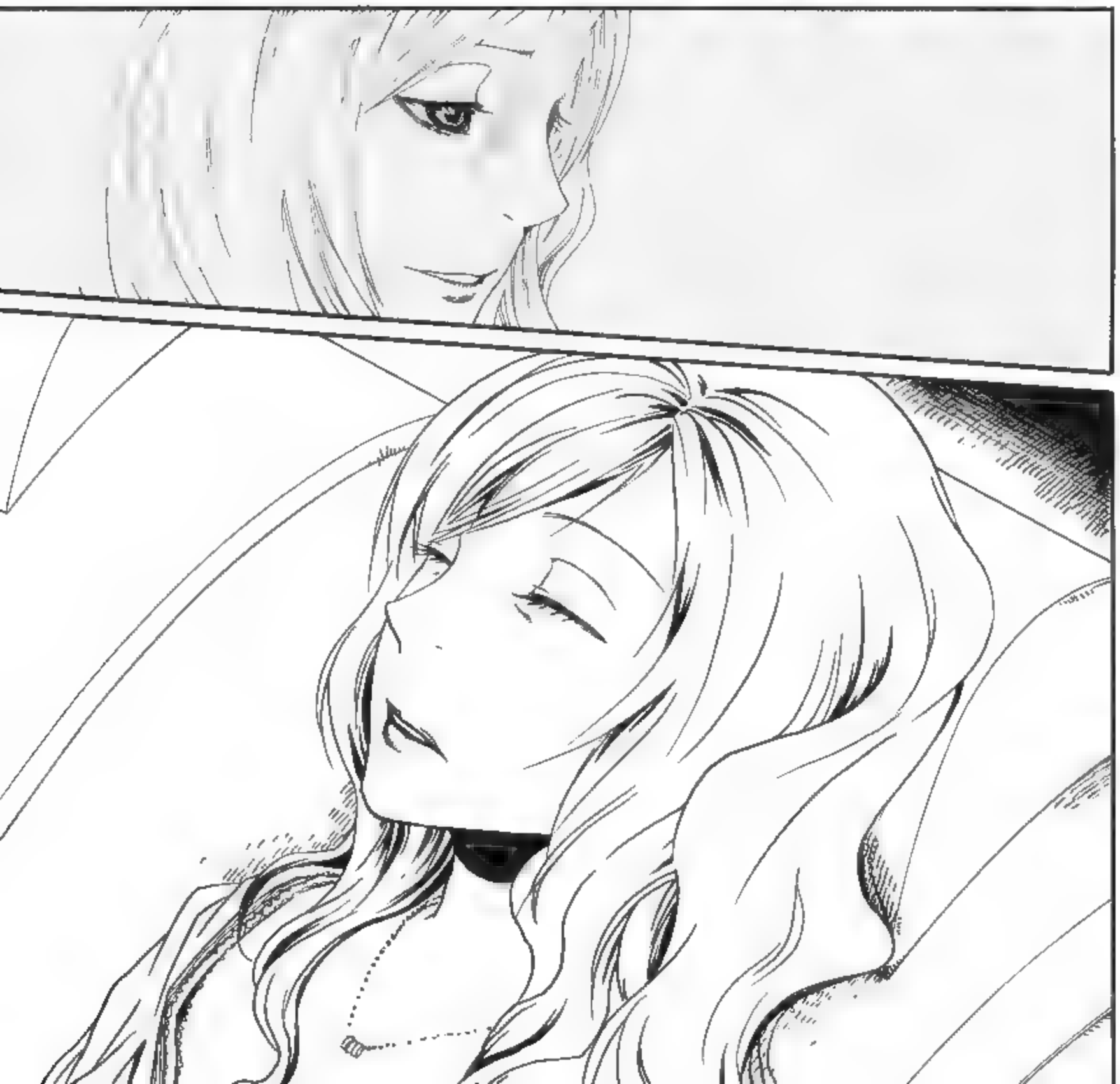
.....!!

THAT'S IT! THE CAR I SAW, WITH THE SUICIDE—!!

ZA (SKFF)

...OTOBE...





ZARI (CRUNCH)

...I...

...SOME-WHERE IN MY HEART...

BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT IN TERMS OF "GIVING IT MY ALL"...THERE'S SOMETHING THERE THAT CAN'T BE MEASURED BY THE WEIGHT OF MY CRIME.

COMPARED TO TOWADA-SAN'S MURDER, MY CRIME WAS NOTHING.

...I MIGHT HAVE BEEN THINKING... THAT ALL I DID WAS STEAL AN ATM CARD FROM SOMEONE WHO KILLED HERSELF.

I LIVED CARELESSLY AND LET INERTIA CARRY ME DEEP INTO DEBT. I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT PAYING IT BACK. I CHOSE SUICIDE, JUST LIKE THAT.

TOWADA-SAN LIVED EARNESTLY AND WORRIED PASSIONATELY OVER WHAT TO DO BEFORE SHE ARRIVED AT MURDER.

GOSO (RUMMAGE) ガサ…

AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO DIE BY MYSELF.

GU (CLENCH) グ

WHAT MAKES ME BETTER THAN TOWADA-SAN...?

AND I HAVE NO WAY TO PAY IT BACK...

GOLD/SILVER CASH CARD XXXX XXXX XXXX

I'M MILLIONS OF YEN IN DEBT.

SIGN: OTOBE

MY PARENTS LIVING OUT IN THE COUNTRY COULDN'T PAY THAT HUGE SUM.

AND I LEFT THEM ON BAD TERMS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IS THAT WHY I WAS SO QUICK TO JUMP TO SUICIDE!?

EVEN THOUGH I DESERVE WHAT I GOT?

WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO PAY IT BACK MYSELF!?

IF I JUST WALTZ ON HOME AND TELL THEM THE TRUTH— THAT I'M MIL-LIONS OF YEN IN DEBT...

...I JUST KNOW, THEY'D HIT ME SO HARD, MY FACE WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME...

...IS THAT WHY...

...I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT I WASN'T MEANT TO WASTE AWAY OUT IN THE COUNTRY...

...I...

I WENT TO THE CAPITAL, BELIEVING THAT I ALONE COULD SUCCEED...

...SO I DIDN'T WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY FAILURE.

I ACTED BIG.

I CHOSE DEATH, JUST LIKE THAT.

...I'M...

...SO SHALLOW...

I... LIED...

...TO ESCAPE THE PAIN OF HAVING TO SETTLE MY ACCOUNTS.

DID YOU KNOW? ONE OF THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS ...

THEY SAY THAT THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO KILL THEMSELVES WON'T BE SAVED.

THROWING AWAY THE LIFE YOUR PARENTS GAVE YOU WITHOUT SEEING IT THROUGH TO THE END...

...IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD NEVER DO. ...FOR ANY REASON.

...I AGREE... BUT IT'S A FACT THAT THERE'S NO END TO YOUNG PEOPLE KILLING THEM-SELVES THESE DAYS...

I'M THE WORST...!!

MMGH ...

HIC...

KH...

!!?

BI (RIP)

BI

BI

BI

...GH!

GL WIPE

GACHA (KACHAK)

BAN (SLAM)

BI

BI

OTOBE-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU...!?

BI

BI

...A SIMPLE APOLOGY ISN'T ENOUGH TO EARN YOUR FORGIVENESS, BUT...

AKUTA-GAWA-SAN...

...MACHI-CHAN...

...CHIAKI-SAN...

...I'M GIVING THIS BACK...

BA (BOW)

...I'M SORRY ...!!

.....

IT'S. ALL. RIGHT

IT'S OKAY. IF THIS MONEY WILL GIVE YOU THE WILL TO LIVE AGAIN.

...THEN DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. TAKE IT...

BA (JUMP)

...CHIAKI-SAN!?

...!!?

I WON'T BLAME YOU FOR IT .. AND I'M SURE MY HUSBAND WON'T EITHER...

THIS IS A VILLAGE OF THE DEAD... IT'S A VILLAGE OF THE DEAD...

HA.. HA-HA-HA NOTHING SURPRISES ME ANYMORE. HA-HA-HA

.....

SU (SSK)

GYU (PRESS)

GOLD
CASH
XXXX

THANK YOU VERY MUCH... BUT...

...IT'S OKAY. I...

...I KNOW NOW.

IN LIFE, YOU DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU *CAN* GIVE SOMETHING YOUR ALL.

YOU ***ALWAYS*** GIVE IT YOUR ALL.

SO I WON'T BE NEEDING THIS.

NO MATTER HOW RIDICULOUS I MAY LOOK, I'LL FLOUNDER AND STRUGGLE.

AND SETTLE MY PROBLEMS MYSELF!

. HADN'T BEEN SO HASTY

...AND EACH TALKED WITH OURSELVES MORE SERIOUSLY...

IF WE...

GUSHI (RUB)

WHAT-EVER YOUR REASON . .

. YOU DECIDED NOT TO KILL YOUR-SELF .

IF WE HAD GIVEN IT OUR ALL...

. THEN MAYBE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER OPTION FOR US TOO .

LET ME TELL YOU, "GOOD LUCK."

GU (CLENCH)

BAN (SLAM)

JARI (CRUNCH)

LIFE IS LIKE A TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE.

WHEN YOU'VE USED ALL THE TOOTH-PASTE DOWN TO THE VERY LAST SQUEEZE...

...THAT'S WHEN YOU'VE REALLY LIVED.

LIVE WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.

...AND STRUGGLE AS LONG AS YOU HAVE LIFE.

...I WILL!!

CHAPTER 11

I ENDED UP HERE AFTER A LOT OF WRONG TURNS.

AND THAT'S HOW I LEARNED ...

...LIFE IS SOMETHING TO WHICH YOU ALWAYS NEED TO GIVE YOUR ALL.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

I'M SURE THAT ALL DEPENDS ON ME.

IT'S BEEN RAINY AND DARK UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

...SO ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT THIS PLACE WAS THAT IT WAS KINDA CREEPY.

...I NEVER NOTICED.

BUT LOOK AT HOW PEACEFUL THE SCENERY IS...

...YOU'RE WEARING A REALLY BRIGHT SMILE.

THIS WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN WITH YOU, YOU'VE HAD THIS SHADOW OVER YOUR FACE. BUT NOW...

HUH?

...IT'S JUST LIKE YOU, OTOBE-KUN.

HA-HA. JUST LOOK AT THIS LANDSCAPE.

IT'S LIKE IT'S BLESSING YOU AND YOUR RESOLVE TO START YOUR LIFE ANEW...

.....

GOOO (VROOOM)

ゴォォォ

LOOKS LIKE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TAKE A BIT OF A DETOUR RATHER THAN USE A SHORTCUT.

LET'S GO.

BIKU

BIKU TWITCH

AH... EEP!!

IT'S OKAY.

WHEN THEY FIND OUT I'M NOT AT THE SHRINE, THEY'LL SEARCH THE WHOLE VILLAGE.

NO, MAYBE THEY'RE ALREADY WAITING TO AMBUSH ME ON THE WAY TO THE SONOZAKI ESTATE...?

THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE TO THE SONOZAKI HOUSE.

IF WE USE THAT, WE CAN LEAVE THE VILLAGE WITHOUT THE ENEMY FINDING US.

HURRY!!

PIKU (TWITCH)

OH?

I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL OLD HOUSES, BUT I GUESS SOME OF THEM AREN'T.

WHEN YOU JUST LOOK AT THE NATURE HERE, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE...

...BUT SEEING THE BUILDINGS, IT REALLY HITS HOME THAT THIS IS A GHOST VILLAGE...

IT'S SO OUT OF PLACE IN THIS VILLAGE.

YOU'RE RIGHT... THAT'S A REALLY BIG HOUSE.

IT SEEMS LIKE A RICH MAN'S MANSION, DOESN'T IT?

H-HEY! WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU STOPPING...? LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!

MION-SAN?

PITA (STOP)

IF WE DON'T HURRY ...!

WE'LL BE LATE!!

BLINK (FWSH)

ALL RIGHT! JUST WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR!!

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ...

RACE YOU TO SEE WHO GETS THERE FIRST!! RACE YOU!!

FIRST IN HIS OR HER SEAT WINS!!

...A MAN'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH!!

HURRY UP!!

YOU'RE SLOW, MION!!

RENA...

...KEI-CHAN...

...SAN!

HA! (GASP!)

MION-SAN!!

SORRY FOR STOPPING LIKE THAT.

LET'S GO.

ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

... YEAH ...

...SHE KNOWS THE PERSON WHO LIVED HERE.

MION-SAN SAYS SHE'S FROM THIS VILLAGE.

MAYBE IT WAS THAT "SATOSHI" PERSON...

MAYBE...

WE'RE HERE.

THIS IS THE SONOZAKI ESTATE.

LISTEN UP. THE HAND-BELL IS BEHIND A HANGING SCROLL IN THE INNER ROOM.

THE KEYHOLE IS THE SCABBARD DISPLAYED IN THE ALCOVE!

PASHA

PASHA (SNAP)

JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM THE THREE FAMILIES!!

PASHA

A NICE, IMPOSING GATE!!

IT WOULD SEEM THAT OUR ENEMY WON'T LET US GET OFF SO EASILY.

(CREAK)

IF I PUT THE TAMAHAJIKI NO KATANA INSIDE IT, THE MECHANISM WILL OPEN UP.

ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN THE BELL, WE'LL ESCAPE THROUGH THE HIDDEN WELL IN THE UNDER-GROUND STORE-HOUSE IN THE FOREST.

YEAH!!

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. ...OR ALL THERE ***WAS.***

EH?

ZURAAAA (LOOM)

THEY MADE IT THIS FAR...?

URK... WHOA. NO WAY.

I COULD SAY THE EXACT SAME THING TO YOU...

ZARI (CRUNCH)

...MION SONO-ZAKI!

HA!

THAT'S VERY SPORTSMANLIKE, CHALLENGING ME FACE-TO-FACE LIKE THIS.

...MIFUNE...

ZAH! (STAND)

AFTER MY FATHER GOT SICK AND DIED A FEW YEARS AGO, MY MOTHER RAN THE SONOZAKI GROUP.

GIRI (CLENCH)

EVEN WITHOUT THE BELL, WE MANAGED TO KEEP THE GROUP UNDER CONTROL WITH MY MOTHER'S POWER.

BUT ...

DOUN (BOOM)

IT WAS A SUDDEN ATTACK.

ANE-SAN...!!

AND THEN ALL AT ONCE, THE GROUP'S BALANCE SHIFTED.

*ANE-SAN MEANS "OLDER SISTER" BUT IS OFTEN USED TO REFER TO A FEMALE LEADER OF A GANG OR YAKUZA-TYPE ORGANIZATION.

P!

P!

P!

P!
(BEEP)

P!

KASAI...

I'VE LOCATED THE MAN WHO PLOTTED THE ATTACK ON AKANE-SAN.

P!

P!

MION-SAN.

WHA...!?

MIFUNE...? MY DAD'S OLD CONFIDANT!?

IT WAS MOST LIKELY MIFUNE...!

WHEN THE BOSS PASSED AWAY, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE SONOZAKI FAMILY AS ITS NEXT HEAD, MION-SAN.

BUT BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO YOUNG, AKANE-SAN UNDERTOOK THAT ROLE IN YOUR STEAD.

HE WANTS TO GET RID OF AKANE-SAN, TAKE HER POSITION HIMSELF, AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE GROUP...

...AFTER MY FATHER WAS SO GOOD TO YOU...

...YOU DIVIDED THE GROUP AND DOUBLE-CROSSED US. YOU TRAITOR...

I'M ONLY SAYING THAT IT'S TOO EARLY FOR SOMEONE AS YOUNG AS YOURSELF TO LEAD THE FAMILY.

I DIDN'T BETRAY ANYONE.

...AND CROSSING THE SONOZAKI THRESHOLD!

YOU'VE GOT GUTS, WALTZING OVER HERE...

M... MIO—

WHO KNOWS?

SU (SSK)

WHERE IS THE BELL?

I'M SURE YOU CAME HERE FOR THE SAME REASON I DID.

STOP ASKING POINTLESS QUESTIONS.

EVEN IF I DID KNOW, DO YOU THINK I WOULD TELL YOU?

...MY, MY. IT SEEMS THAT THE YOUNG LADY PREFERS DOING THINGS THE HARD WAY.

DO IT!

KAN
(CLANG)

HYU
(WHOOSH)

GOKA
(KAPOW)

MION-SA—

STAY THERE.

EH...?

... EXCEL-LENT.

WITH SO MANY TASTY-LOOKING HELPINGS, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GOBBLE THEM ALL DOWN.

PASA (FWOOSH)

KARAN (CLATTER)

KARAN

SHA (SHAK)

SHURU (SHRP)

I CAN'T DO THIS ELEGANTLY !!

COME AFTER ME ONLY IF YOU WON'T HOLD YOUR DEATH AGAINST ME!!

CHAPTER 12

ZASHU (SLASH)

WH...
WHOA...

ZAN (SLICE)

DOSA (THUD)

...ARE NO OBSTACLE.

TO HER..

...LARGE NUMBERS...

TATA (TROT)

TATA

TATA

SHE WON'T MORTALLY WOUND ANY OF THEM...

...BUT SHE DOESN'T FAIL TO DISABLE ALL HER OPPONENTS.

CALM, PRECISE ATTACKS...

THAT BRAVERY ...

...SHE PLUNGES RIGHT IN.

FAR FROM FALTERING AGAINST SO MANY...

I'M IMPRESSED, MION SONOZAKI...

MION-SAN?

NSH

NSH

MION-SAAAN?

UNGH

SORO (SLOW)

23:

PARDON OUR INTRUSION...

I WONDER WHERE SHE WENT...

GACHI (RATTLE)

GACHI

NGH...!

NNNGH ...

MIFUNE GOT AWAY...?

CHAKI (CHAK)

THAT MEANS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT, DOESN'T IT?

GAKU

GAKU

GAKU (SHAKE)

.....!

BAH (BOW)

F-FORGIVE ME, PLEASE ...!

I'M BEGGING YOU... SEE...?

DOSA (THUD)

I WAS A FOOL... TURNING ON THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

REALLY, I WASN'T THINKING...!!

...Y... YEAH...

THANK YOU SO MUCH...! THANK YOU...!!

...THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. YOU NEED TO VALUE YOUR LIFE.

DON (BLAM)

GURA (STAGGER)

DOSA (THUD)

...EH?

MION-SAN!!

OTOBE.

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

THANK GOOD-NESS!

YOU'RE SAFE...

.....!

ZU (SPLSH)

MI ...

TON (THNK)

... KH ...

BOTA

BOTA (DRIP)

HA

MION-SAN!

HA HA HA HA HA!

YOUR BACK WAS WIDE OPEN!

...YOU...

FURA (STAGGER)

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER.

TO THINK YOU'D BOTH FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK!

NOW BE THE DEMON YOU ARE, AND GO GUARD THE GATES OF HELL!

YOUR MOTHER SHOULD BE JOINING YOU SOON ENOUGH!

YORD (STAGGER)

YOU GET TO BE GUIDED TO THE NEXT WORLD BY THE SAME GUN THAT SHOT YOUR MOTHER.

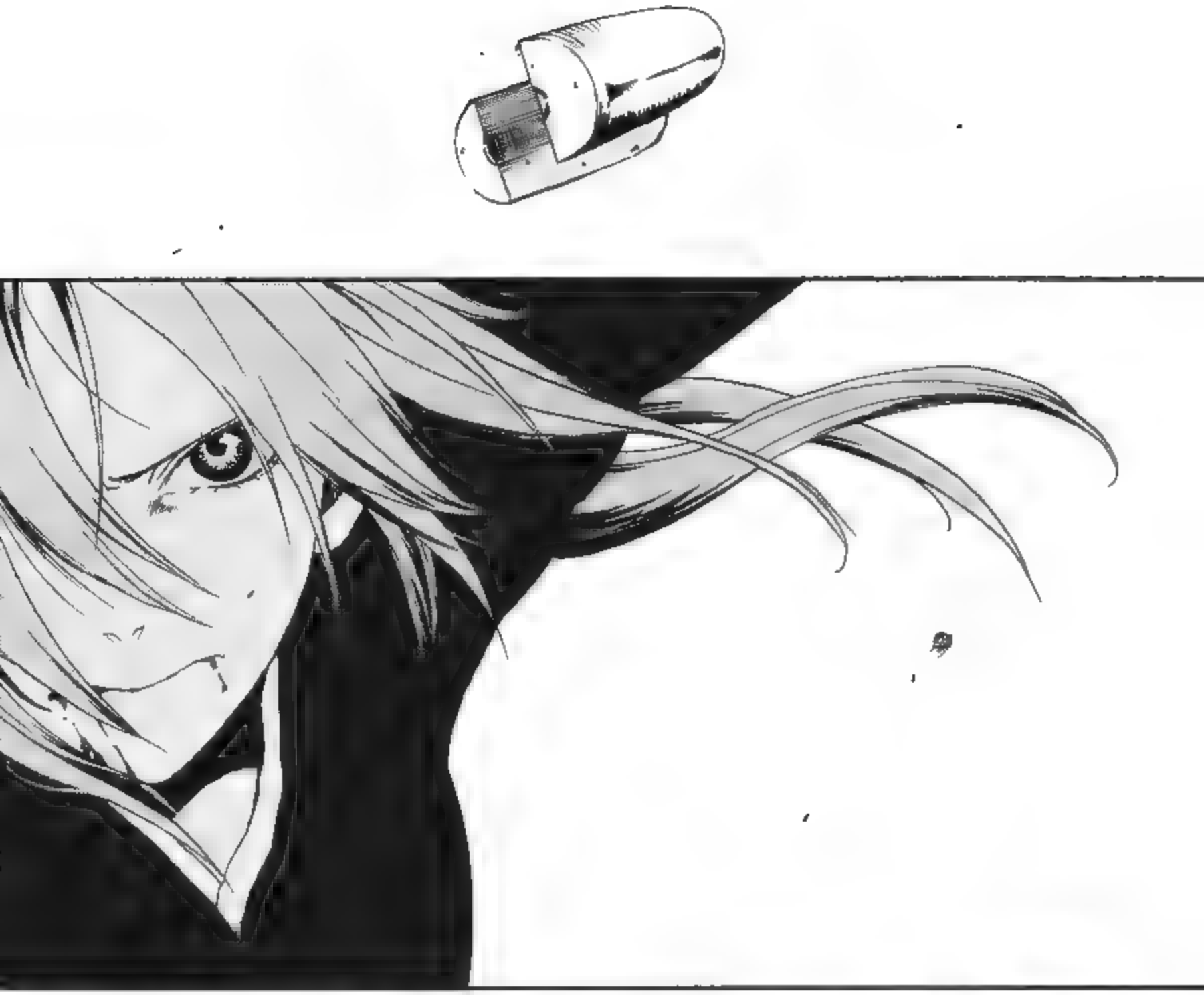
AREN'T YOU SO HAPPY TO BE LIKE YOUR MOMMY?

DIE, MION SONOZAKI!!

DON (BLAM)

EEp!

СМИАСКО
КА



EH?
EH?
...EH?
TA
CDASH

ZAN
(SLASH)

...EVEN...

...POS...
SIBLE?

BA
(BAM)

IS
THAT
...

THAT'S TOO BAD...

IT IS SAID THAT THE ANCIENTS USED THIS TAMAHAJIKI NO KATANA IN BATTLE TO CUT DOWN EVEN BULLETS.

BUT IF IT HAD BEEN AN ORDINARY SWORD, YOU WOULD HAVE WON.

ARE YOU OKAY??

H-HEY?

FURA

FURA

MI... MION-SA...

THE BELL...

BOTA DRIP

BOTA

FURA (STAGGER)

...NGH...

HÁ (HUFF)

HAA

ZUTAAAN (WHAM)

!!

GURA (SWOON)

HUFF

ZU (SLIDE)

HUFF...

HUFF

ZURU (DRAG)

HUFF

GOPO (BUBBLE)

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF...

ズルッ

ZURU

ズルッ

ZURU

HER OBI...

IT'S TURNING ALL RED...

BURU (TREMBLE)

...!

NN. GH...

NURU (SLIP)

BAH! (BAM!)

MION-SAN!!

NO! YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE...

!

.....!!!

.....

OTOBE ...

!

GEHO (COUGH)

CAN I... ASK YOU A FAVOR?

TAKE THIS...

!

MY TWIN SISTER SHION WILL BE HERE SOON...

USE THIS KATANA TO GET THE HAND-BELL.

AND GIVE IT...TO SHION...

MION-SAN!!

GAH...! COUGH!

WHILE I'M BOTHERING YOU, CAN I...

PLEASE DON'T TALK! I UNDERSTAND!

GEHO (COUGH)

SORRY... FOR CAUSING YOU ALL THIS TROUBLE RIGHT AT THE VERY END...

...ASK YOU ONE MORE FAVOR?

WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GET TO THAT HIDDEN PASSAGE THING...

THIS IS BAD! IT MIGHT BE NEW GUYS COMING TO GET US!

NOT YET.

キキィッ

GIKII (SCREE)

DID I JUST HEAR A CAR!?

!

EH...?

WE CAN'T GO YET.

MION'S GOAL HASN'T BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

WE CAN'T RUN AWAY AND LEAVE THAT BEHIND!!

!?

DAH (DASH)

.....!

PETAN (COLLAPE)

DA

DA (STOMP)

YOU ARE TRULY A SPINELESS COWARD. YOU'RE AS LOW AS THEY GET.

I'M MION. MION SONOZAKI.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT ISN'T WHAT SHE'LL DO. IT'S HOW EARNESTLY SHE MAKES THE DECISION.

I AM INDEED A RESIDENT OF THIS VILLAGE.

LIFE IS LIKE A TUBE OF TOOTH-PASTE.

WHEN YOU'VE USED ALL THE TOOTHPASTE DOWN TO THE VERY LAST SQUEEZE, THAT'S WHEN YOU'VE REALLY LIVED.

—

LIVE WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.

AND STRUGGLE AS LONG AS YOU HAVE LIFE.

BAN (BAM)

THAT'S IT!

THE HAND-BELL IS BEHIND A HANGING SCROLL IN THE INNER ROOM.

THE KEYHOLE IS THE SCABBARD DISPLAYED IN THE ALCOVE.

SU (SHHK)!

KACHIN (CLICK)

GOKU (GULP)

KATAN (CLANK)

A HIDDEN SHELF!!

KOTON (CLUNK)

GATAN CLATTER

I DID IT...

MION-SAN.

GIVE IT TO SHION...

MION-SAN.

I WILL GIVE IT TO HER...!!

NO MATTER WHAT. NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL GIVE IT TO SHION-SAN...!!

THIS IS... THE BELL!!

NO MATTER WHAT ...!!!

THANK YOU...

...FOR FINDING THAT.

YOU DANCED FOR ME WITHOUT MY EVEN ASKING. I AM TRULY GRATE-FUL.

MION WILL DIE, AND THE BELL WILL BE MINE.

NOW, GIVE IT TO ME.

FINAL CHAPTER

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

ONCE I HAVE THE BELL, IT WILL ALL BE OVER.

NOW! GIVE IT TO ME.

IT CAN'T BE...

GIVE IT TO ME!

GIVE IT TO ME NOW!!

COME ON.

WHAT'S WRONG !?

OH, BE A GOOD BOY AND DO WHAT I SAY.

カチ

CHAKI (CLICK)

AND I'LL SPARE YOU YOUR LIFE.

!

!!

JUST GIVE IT TO HIM...

.....!

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WANT TO STICK TO YOUR GUNS, BUT IS NOW REALLY THE TIME FOR THAT?

THE IMPORTANT THING ISN'T TO WAIT UNTIL YOU CAN GIVE SOMETHING YOUR ALL!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO ALWAYS GIVE YOUR ALL!

IF YOU REFUSE TO GIVE HIM THE BELL, HE'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S OKAY TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY.

ドクン…

DOKLIN (BADUM)

ドクン…

DOKLIN

ドタ

DOTA

ドタ

DOTA (STOMP)

AAAWAGH!

ドタ

DOTA

ドタ

DOTA

ドクン…

DOKLIN

ドクン

DOKLIN

ドクン

GOKURI (GULP)

DOKLIN

NGH ...!

ドシュ

NDOSUUUU (FWAAAM)

WHA ...!?

AAAHHH!!

KH...

GO, OTOBE-KUN! DON'T LET HIM GET THE BELL!!!

LEAVE HIM TO ME!

AH!

ARAKAWA-SAN!?

GO (WHACK)

LET GO OF ME, SMALL FRY!!

ACK !!

KKH... NEEDLESSLY GETTING IN MY WAY...

!

IT'S NO GOOD TO THROW MY LIFE AWAY WILLINGLY.

BUT THAT...

...DOESN'T MEAN I SHOULD JUST COAST THROUGH IT, FEARING DEATH.

YOU... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

IT'S SO FOOLISH TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY WITHOUT ACCOMPLISHING WHAT YOU SHOULD.

IT'S SUCH A SHAME TO LOSE YOUR LIFE BEFORE ACCOMPLISHING WHAT YOU SHOULD.

ARAKAWA-SAN... TOO.

MION-SAN TOO.

EVEN TOWADA-SAN, WHO KILLED THE MAN SHE LOVED...

...SHE MAY HAVE MADE SOME MISTAKES ON THE WAY, BUT SHE ALWAYS GAVE HER ALL.

AND ME TOO!!

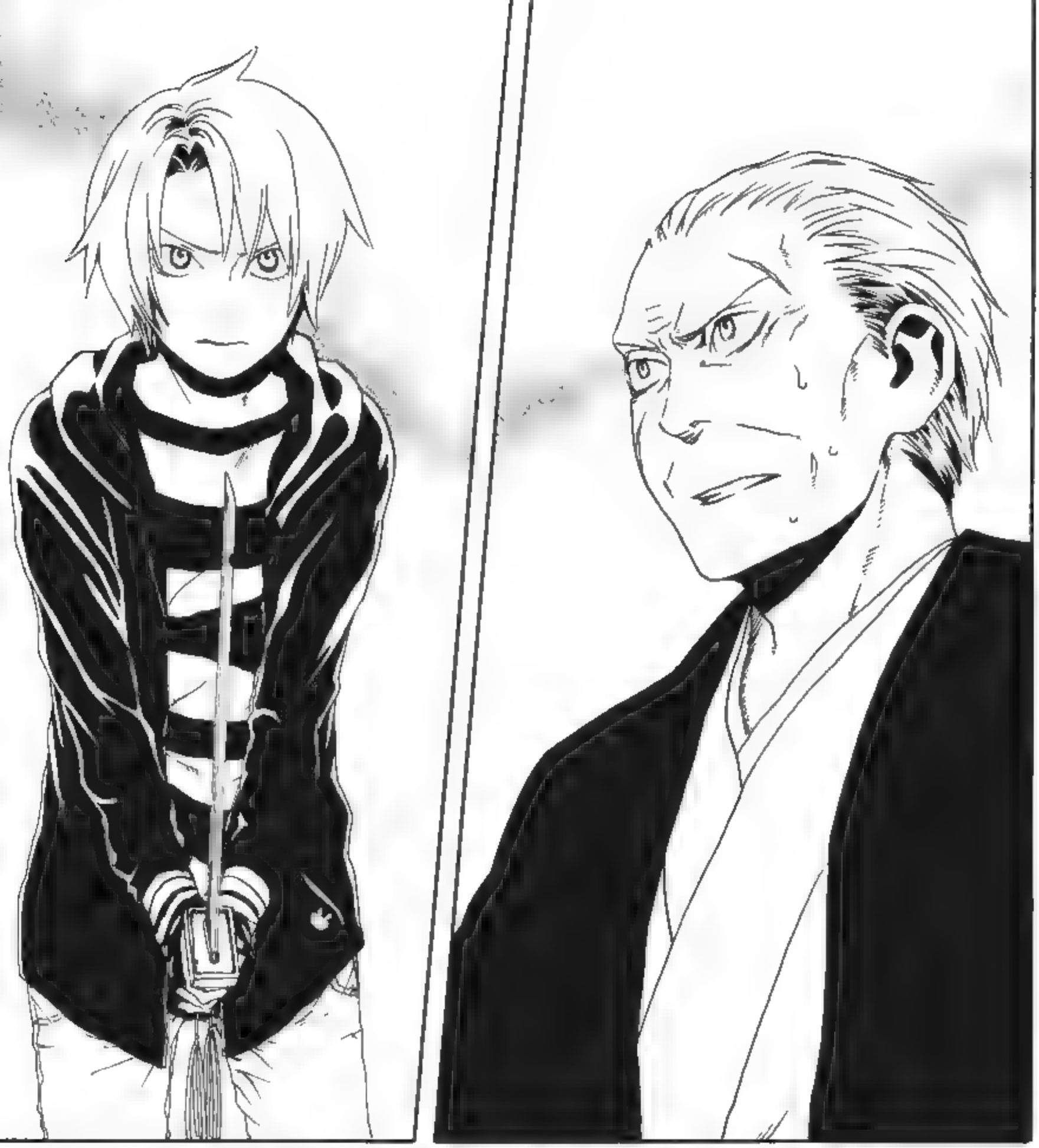
MION-SAN ASKED ME TO CARRY OUT HER LAST WISHES!! SO I WILL GIVE EVERYTHING I HAVE TO SEE IT THROUGH!!

IF YOU WANT TO SHOOT ME, THEN SHOOT ME!

I WON'T GIVE YOU THE BELL! EVER!

BUT AIM CARE-FULLY! IF YOU CAN'T KILL ME IN ONE SHOT...

...THEN I'LL CUT YOU DOWN IN ONE STROKE!!



YOU LITTLE ...!!

...Y-

JAKA (KA-CLICK)

EH...?

WH...

GURA
(STAGGER...)

ZAN
(SLASH)

...AT...?

DO
(THUD)

AH...

AAHH...!

MI...

MION-SAN ...!

...
MIFUNE
...

SATOSHI... KUN?

YOU'RE ALIVE!!

MION-SAN! THANK GOODNESS ...

TA (TROT)

SA-

...EH?

SATOSHI?

PITA (STOP)

AKIRA OTOBE.

C-COME ON. IT'S ME. OTOBE.

OWWW...

SHE'S... NOT MION-SAN?

... SHION-SAN?

FURA (STAGGER)

OTOBE ...?

? ?

!!

...I GAVE UP THAT NAME MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO...

WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU PEOPLE ...?

AND WHEN DID I GET HERE...?

?

リン (RING)

UM, HERE! MION-SAN TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU WHEN YOU GOT HERE...

MION DID!?

...DIED MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO ...!!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... MION... ONEE...

*ONEE MEANS "BIG SISTER" IN JAPANESE

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT THE ME I APPEAR TO BE.

I AM POSSESSED!

THAT...WAS TRUE...?

EH...?

.....!

はっ HA (GASP)

IT CAN'T BE.

THE DAY BEFORE YESTER-DAY...

...ONEE VISITED ME IN A DREAM.

YES. ONEE... LED ME HERE TO HINAMIZAWA ...

AH...

SHE WAS... A GHOST ...?

GO TO HINAMI-ZAWA...!

SHION.

I MANAGED TO LOSE THEM...

...BUT MY OWN CAR CRASHED INTO A WALL...

SO I SET OUT ALONE.

ON THE WAY, I WAS CHASED BY A CAR OF MIFUNE'S ASSASSINS.

GOOOOO (WHOOOSH)

KIKIII (SCREEE)

...WAS MION-SAN'S SPIRIT POSSESSING YOUR BODY!?

...SO...THE WOMAN WHO WAS WITH US ALL THIS TIME...

...AND I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

PETAN (COLLAPSE)

THAT'S...

OTOBE-KUN.

MION SONOZAKI DIED IN THE SCHOOL HOSTAGE INCIDENT.

BUT SHE DIDN'T DIE COMPLETELY. ...SHE BECAME A SPIRIT AND STUCK TO HER SISTER.

DID YOU FORGET? THIS IS A VILLAGE OF THE DEAD.

NOTHING THAT HAPPENS HERE IS STRANGE.

...TO TELL YOU WHERE THE HANDBELL WAS.

AND WHEN THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WAS IN TROUBLE...

ONEE...

...SHE CAME TO YOU IN A DREAM AND CALLED YOU TO HINAMI-ZAWA...

I ACCEPT...

...ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE...

YOU WERE ALWAYS...

GYU (CLENCH)

THANK YOU.

...YOUR GIFT ACROSS TWENTY YEARS.

...?

I DON'T THINK SO... BUT MY KIMONO IS TORN.

HA! (GASP)

.....

HURT?

UH, UM! WEREN'T YOU HURT!? ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU GOT SHOT!

IF I WERE TO GUESS, I WOULD SAY THAT MION TOOK ALL THE DAMAGE THAT WAS INFLICTED WHILE SHE WAS POSSESSED...

HMMM.

.....!!

LOGIC OF AN OCCULT WRITER

EVEN WHEN I WAS AWAKE... IT WAS JUST A FEELING, BUT I'VE ALWAYS SENSED ONEE'S PRESENCE.

THAT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME I SAW ONEE IN MY DREAMS.

ERGO, SHION IS UNHURT! SOMETHING LIKE THAT MAYBE?

YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING! AS LONG AS YOU HAVE YOUR SISTER'S SPIRIT WITH YOU, YOU'RE INVINCIBLE!!

BUT IT'S GONE NOW.

NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

MION ISN'T WITH ME ANYMORE.

I DON'T THINK SHE'LL EVER APPEAR AGAIN.

!

BATA (STAMP)

BATA

...REALLY SOME-THING...

MAN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... SHE WAS...

.....

SHE PERFORMED HER GREAT-EST DUTY AND DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH THIS WOUND... THAT'S THE FEELING I GET.

BATA

BATA

BATA

DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE STILL AFTER US!?

!!

FOOT-STEPS...

BATA

BATA (STAMP)

BATA

SU (SS)

IT'S OKAY.

*"OJOU IS A RESPECTFUL TERM THAT MEANS "YOUNG LADY," A CARRYOVER FROM WHEN KASAI CARED FOR SHION AS A CHILD.

BATA

BATA

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

BATA

OJOU ...

THEY'RE FRIENDS.

KASAI...

HOW COULD YOU BE SO RECK-LESS!?

I'M SURPRISED YOU KNEW I WAS HERE.

WE WENT TO FURUDE SHRINE FIRST AND RAN INTO THIS WOMAN.

SHE TOLD US YOU WERE ALL AT THE SONOZAKI ESTATE.

"THIS WOMAN" ...?

TOWADA-SAN!!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE...

YOU TOO...!

...!!

THIS IS MION'S TWIN SISTER, SHION-SAN.

EH?

MION-SAN, HERE'S THE GUN YOU LENT ME.

?

...TOWADA-SAN.

THAT'S NOT MION-SAN.

...
BRAVE
...

...IT WAS A VERY...

MION-SAN IS...

.....!

NO...!

BUT...

...AND NOBLE END...!

...I...

...AFTER YOU ALL LEFT...

...I FACED TAKUMI-KUN. I TALKED TO HIM...AND I DECIDED.

I'M GOING TO START OVER AGAIN WITH A NEW LIFE.

AND AS A WAY TO CLEANSE MYSELF FOR MY FRESH START, I'M GOING TO TURN MYSELF IN WHEN I GET BACK INTO TOWN.

SFX: GYU (CLENCH)

...

I SEE.

...ME...

...TOO.

I'LL TELL MY PARENTS EVERY-THING.

...IT'LL PROBABLY CAUSE THEM A LOT OF TROUBLE.

BUT I'LL SEARCH FOR A WAY TO PAY BACK MY DEBT.

I THINK I WANT TO START OVER WITH A NEW LIFE TOO.

THIS TIME, I'LL LIVE WITH ALL MY MIGHT.

GOING TO SLEEP WITHOUT EVEN FIGHTING AND ESCAPING INTO DEATH...

...I'LL NEVER CONSIDER IT AGAIN.

I'M SURE IT WON'T BE EASY.

BUT I KNOW THAT THE POWER OF TRYING TO LIVE THROUGH TO THE END, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO CRAWL ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES, IS VERY BEAUTIFUL.

BECAUSE MION-SAN TAUGHT ME.

ARRRGH! HERE I CAME FOR RE-SEARCH!

BUT I HAVE NO CLUE HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO ORGANIZE ALL THIS INTO AN ARTICLE.

NEVER MIND THE YAKUZA FAMILY DISPUTE...

...BUT A STORY ABOUT A DEAD GUY CRYING AND APOLOGIZING FOR WHAT HE DID IN LIFE?

NOBODY'LL BELIEVE THAT, NO MATTER HOW I SPIN IT!

WE'LL BELIEVE YOU. RIGHT?

RIGHT!

...LOOK, YOU TWO...

HEEEY!

YOU THREE! IT'S A LONG WAY INTO TOWN.

APPARENTLY I OWE YOU, SO WE'LL DRIVE YOU.

ZZZ

ゴゴゴ

GOOOOO (VROOOOM)

IT'S TOO DEMOLISHED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO RUIN NATURALLY...

WHAT'S THAT...?

キキイッ

KIKII (SCREEE)

STOP THE CAR, KASAI.

RIGHT AWAY.

...IT'S THE REMAINS OF THE SCHOOL.

IT'S BEEN LEFT THAT WAY SINCE THE EXPLOSION IN THE HOSTAGE INCIDENT.

バタン
BATAN (SHUT)

TO (STEP)

...THIS IS WHERE EVERYONE DIED...

PASA (RUSTLE)

.....

THAT'S WHY I WONDER...

...IF MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE DIED IN THE EXPLOSION ALONG WITH THEM.

...YOU KNOW?

...IN THAT INCIDENT MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO.

ONEE...

MY FRIENDS...

I LOST EVERYTHING.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT I WAS THE ONE THEY LEFT BEHIND.

...ALWAYS...

MION-SAN TOLD ME...

...TO LIVE WITH ALL MY MIGHT...

LIFE...

...IS LIKE A TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE.

...AND STRUGGLE AS LONG AS I HAVE LIFE.

WHEN YOU'VE USED ALL THE TOOTHPASTE DOWN TO THE VERY LAST SQUEEZE...

...THAT'S WHEN YOU'VE REALLY LIVED.

THAT'S... WHAT SHE TOLD ME.

YOU LIVE A GOOD LONG LIFE!

WASHA (RUFFLE)

!

THEY'LL BE DAYS OF BLOOD AND GUN SMOKE, THOUGH! HEH-HEH-HEH.

AND I WILL TOO.

THAT ANALOGY IS SO LIKE HER!

AH HA HA HA HA!!

HEH...

HAVING A GIRL RUFFLE MY HAIR...

HM... HMPH...

OJOU! LET'S HURRY!

WITH THE HANDBELL, WE CAN END THIS WAR IN ONE STROKE!

AH... SH...! SHION-SAN, ONE MORE THING.

NIYARI (SMIRK)

...TO THE REBELLIOUS THUGS THAT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAOS.

THAT'S RIGHT. WE HAVE TO GIVE OUR PROPER THANKS...

I WANT YOU TO TELL SHION...

WHILE I'M BOTHERING YOU, CAN I...

THERE'S ONE MORE THING MION-SAN TOLD ME.

...ASK YOU ONE MORE FAVOR?

IT WILL BE NICE...

...IF WE GET TO BE TWINS AGAIN NEXT TIME.

NH...

GOSHI (WIPE)

SU (SSK)

WHY DOES SHE EVEN BOTHER SAYING THAT!? IT'S SO OBVIOUS!

TO (THINK)

THANK YOU.

LEE WON
★★★★★

ONEE.

HIRA (FLUTTER)

ヒラ

BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

FIN

HIGURASHI LOVE FREE NOTEBOOK

ONE EXTRA FOOTSTEP

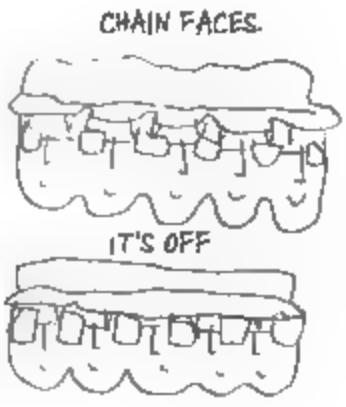
Second Grade Class K

Name: Mimori

OJOU.

I WONDER.
I WONDER.

CHIE-
SENSEI


CHAIN FACES.
IT'S OFF

EXCUSE ME, BUT THIS BEAR
JUST ISN'T CUTE.

NN
FU
FU.

PERVERT

YOU
IS THIS HOW YOU ACT TSUN-DERE?
TRASH!
YOU REALLY DO LOOK BEST IN A SUIT, KASAI.
TEE HEE HEE!
I'M A CUTE, MIDDLE-AGED LADY
M-
M-
M-
M-
M-
M
A
I
D
!

OHHH!

I DRAW RENA OCCASIONALLY

YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, SATOKO. GET SOME SLEEP

CAW!

CAW!

PIGGY-BACK

IT'S OKAY NOW

M-MEW!

OHH..

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE.

SHE'S SPACING OUT.

GYAAAA!

HEART-BREAK

ALWAYS LOOKS UNMOTIVATED.

HE'S SO YOUNG!

KEI-CHAN.

AKASAKA-SAN

CURRY...

CURRY...

MION-SAAAN!

EXTREME EMOTIONS.

BLOOA~

BLOOA~

Special Thanks

Ryukishi07-sama

BT-sama

Mochizuki-sama

Koizumi-sama

Morinaga-san

Naitou-san

Higashi-san

Wase-san

Everyone in my family

Uta

My readers.

ABOUT THE "BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC"

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHI07.

JUST AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, THE "BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC" WAS DESIGNED AS A COMPACT STORY IN WHICH THE CHARACTERS SPEND ONE NIGHT IN THE RAIN. EACH OF THE CHARACTERS SPEAKS FROM THEIR PERSONAL STANDPOINTS (ONLY SAYING WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM), AND SOMETHING KEEPS TWISTING...THIS MIGHT RING A BELL WITH VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE, BUT IT'S INSPIRED BY THE WORLD-FAMOUS STORY *RASHOMON*, WRITTEN BY RYUNOSUKE AKUTAGAWA AND MADE INTO A FILM BY AKIRA KUROSAWA.

OTOBE, WHO JOINED A CARBON MONOXIDE SUICIDE GROUP BUT INSTEAD STOLE HIS DEAD COMRADE'S CASH CARD, DOESN'T WANT THE POLICE TO BE CONTACTED UNTIL HE GETS THE MONEY. AND TOWADA, WHO KILLED HER LOVER, WANTS TO DISAPPEAR BEFORE ANYONE FINDS OUT. MION IS BEING FOLLOWED, AND HER PURSUERS CONTINUE TO SURROUND HER, CUTTING OFF HER METHODS OF ESCAPE UNTIL THEY'VE RALLIED ENOUGH MEN...ONLY EACH PERSON INVOLVED WITH EACH OF THE THREE SITUATIONS KNOWS THAT PART OF THE TRUTH. SO WHAT IF ARAKAWA, WHO KNOWS ALL ABOUT OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE, TAKES ALL THE FACTS AND LEADS THEM TO A CONCLUSION COMPLETELY DISTORTED FROM THE TRUTH? ...AND THAT'S WHERE WE GET THE STORY OF A SINGLE NIGHT— THE "BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC." IF I SAID IT WAS A STORY THAT COMPLIES WITH RULE 2 OF THE MAIN "HIGURASHI" STORY, I THINK THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ORIGINAL SERIES WILL UNDERSTAND. I THINK THAT OUR DAILY LIVES ARE OVERFLOWING WITH RULE 2. WE TAKE THE STATEMENTS OF PEOPLE WHO SAY ONLY WHAT IS CONVENIENT FOR THEIR INTERESTS, INTERPRET THEM IN A WAY THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR US TOO, AND THEN BEHAVE BASED ON THAT FORCED UNDERSTANDING. ...IT MAY BE THAT, NO MATTER HOW COOLHEADED WE ARE, WE CANNOT LOOK AT THINGS OBJECTIVELY. ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY TO BE AWARE OF IT OURSELVES, WARN OURSELVES THAT EVERYTHING IS ADAPTED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF WHOEVER TOLD US, AND STRIVE TO LOOK AT THINGS WITH A LEVEL HEAD.

I AM TRULY GRATEFUL TO MIMORI-SENSEI, WHO DEPICTED THIS COMPACT BUT MYSTERIOUS STORY IN SUCH A SPECTACULAR WAY! MIMORI-SENSEI'S DRAWINGS OF MION IN A KIMONO ARE SO AMAZINGLY WONDERFUL THAT I HAD A LOT OF FUN LOOKING AT THE ROUGH DRAFTS FOR EACH CHAPTER! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR STICKING WITH THE SERIES TO THE END! I PRAY WITH ALL MY HEART FOR YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC ❷

RYUKISHI07
Mimori

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY Beyond Midnight Arc, Vol. 2
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